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ART. XII.—*Travels in North America in the Years 1827 and 1828.* By Captain BASIL HALL, Royal Navy. 2 vols. Philadelphia. Carey, Lea, & Carey.

CAPTAIN HALL is entitled to the thanks of those, with whom he became acquainted in the United States, for the abstinence from personality which marks his work. Almost every one of his countrymen, who had preceded him, had filled his Travels with personal anecdotes of the individuals whom he met. The names of the gentlemen who invited him to dinner, the domestic relations of the families to which he was introduced, the conversation of the social table and of the fireside were basely resorted to,—often with the most profligate admixture of pure fiction,—to give piquancy to the book. The inference naturally drawn, that these travellers were no gentlemen in the real sense of that term, and knew neither what belonged to politeness nor common decency, carried with it little consolation to the victims. At length America was honored by a tourist of a different class ; no Manchester *traveller*, no Scotch gardener, no legacy-hunting Cockney, who, in the failure of honester resources, was fain to defray the expenses of his voyage by the sale of a volume of libellous trash, seasoned to the prevailing appetite for abuse of the United States. Far otherwise ; we were visited by a noble, even a princely stranger ; a member of one of the most enlightened reigning families in Europe, brought up in courts. In the record of his travels, we expected, at least, to be safe against this inglorious annoyance ; but as the fatality of the case would have it, his Serene Highness turned over the entire contents of his portfolio, to an unlucky professor at Jena, who, under the influence of that principle of *loyalty*, which Captain Hall commends as the peculiar glory of the British character, deemed that nothing which his master had noted, sketched, or collected could be improved, either by retrenchment or selection, and wisely inflicted the whole farrago of the princely traveller, with all its personalities and private gossip, on the unoffending community of the *travellés*. We have some authority for saying, that nobody can regret this untoward occurrence, more than the Duke of Saxe-Weimar himself. Captain Hall, as the next prominent successor of the Duke, is doubly entitled to praise, for keeping his pages free from the names of individuals, and

the detail of what he saw and heard, beneath the roofs of those, who sought or fell into his society. We are aware that in so doing, he has sacrificed something of the interest of his work ; not merely, in this country, for which he intimates that he did not write ; but even in his own country, where, though the individuals that would have been mentioned, might not have been known, there is a universal appetite for personality, to which anecdotes of the obscurest characters are more welcome, than general and abstract accounts of very important matters. It might be thought no great merit, that a respectable writer should abstain from personalities, painful to those who had treated him kindly ; but it is a merit which Captain Hall has to share with very few of his colleagues.

Captain Hall has not only punctiliously abstained from offensive personalities, but he professes throughout, and, we doubt not, sincerely, a great degree of personal good will and kind feeling toward the Americans, with whom he became acquainted on his tour. Without flattering himself that his account will be very popular in America, he assures us, he shall deeply lament having written on the subject at all, if his pages shall be thought to contain a single expression, inconsistent with the gratitude, which, in common with his family, ‘he must ever feel for the attention and hospitality he received from the Americans, or with the hearty good will we bear to every individual whom we met with in their widely extended country.’ This is very handsomely said, and ought to satisfy us as to Captain Hall’s intentions. But as some of his former works have passed through more than one edition, and such may be the case with his *Travels in America*, we think it a sort of duty, to advert to a train of remark, into which he has repeatedly fallen, and which well deserves his reconsideration, in a future impression of his book, as ungracious in itself, inconsistent with his avowed and, we doubt not, sincere wish to avoid giving personal offence, and in point of fact probably without foundation. We allude to the repeated complaints of the importunity of those, with whom the Captain became acquainted, in forcing him to see the various objects of interest and curiosity in the different places he visited.

‘For my share,’ says the Captain, on arriving at Baltimore, ‘I was beyond measure relieved, by finding it was not the custom of the place, to cram down our throats their institutions, their town, their bay, their liberty, their intelligence, and so forth. On

the contrary, all was rational and moderate praise, and fair play in these matters. It was also quite a comfort to learn, how little was to be seen, in the way of sights. Perhaps I ought to be ashamed to say so ; but there is a limit to the exertions of travellers as well as of other people, and what I saw at the great cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia had so completely satiated me with institutions, jails, schools, and hospitals, that it was comfortable to find one's self in the midst of a pleasant circle of people, who left such things to make their own impression, and were not eternally reproaching their guests with wilful neglect of their city, when all the while their poor bodies and souls were worn out in trying to do it justice.'

The Russian navigator, Captain Golownin, in his interesting account of the people of Japan, among whom he travelled as a prisoner (the only way in which any foreigner can travel among them), says, that he observed, as he passed along, that the people of the villages, through which he was carried, were busy in taking *their* notes of what they remarked in him and the attendant train. Had the good people of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, who had the happiness to make Captain Hall's acquaintance, kept their journal as he kept his, and given it to the world, it is possible that this process, on their part, which he rather pointedly calls 'cramming down his throat,' might have assumed a different aspect, or at least have borne a different name. Captain Hall, on arriving at Boston, found himself provided with twenty letters of introduction. He proposed, at first, to make a selection of those, which he thought most likely to prove useful. This he forbore, for want of the necessary knowledge of the parties, and writing his address on each letter, 'sent out the whole batch' (perhaps through the post-office), 'and sat still to watch the result.'

'The sun was scarcely set, before a considerable number of persons called, and the next day, we had a crowd of visitors, all not only willing to give us advice as to our proceedings, but to lend us their personal assistance in seeing the lions. Every one was naturally anxious, that we should see things in the most favorable light, and of course fancied that he could do the honors, most successfully in that respect. This was very agreeable ; and the only difficulty, by no means a small one, was, to settle what we should see first and under whose patronage. One gentleman recommended to us to go at once to the "Factories" at Lowell, twenty-five miles off. Another exclaimed, "The thing best worth seeing is our Navy Yard at Charlestown." A third said, "O, no, our hospitals certainly are by far the most interesting objects of curiosity for a stranger."

In another chapter the Captain says,

'It was quite dark before we got back to Boston, where next day we recommenced our round of sight-seeing, which we performed with so much industry, that in the course of a week, hardly a single institution was left unvisited. Rope-works, printing-offices, houses of correction, prisons, hospitals, penitentiaries, schools, alms-houses, navy and building yards, passed in quick, but not in careless review before us. All that our friends desired us to see, we made a point of seeing. It mattered not what it was we wished to examine; scarcely was the wish expressed, when immediately some one left his business, at a minute's warning, to become our zealous and useful guide. All this busy intercourse brought us into very pleasing habits of acquaintance with the good citizens of Boston, with whose manners, appearance, and style altogether, we were much taken.' Vol. i. p. 291.

Here the Captain evidently comes to the true conclusions. The 'crowd of visitors' that overwhelmed him, was produced by his despatching his 'batch' of twenty letters at once. The different objects they recommended to his attention proved that he had luckily brought letters to persons of different pursuits or tastes. Their eagerness to show, each the object with which he happened to be acquainted, was probably prompted by the very terms of Captain Hall's letters, and was intended partly as a mark of respect to the distant friends, by whom those letters were written. The supposition that Captain Hall wished, on his own account, to see the institutions and establishments of the country, was a natural, though, judging from his remarks at Baltimore, an erroneous supposition, at least at that stage of his journey. The fact that his friends in Boston left their business (which the Bostonians are not fonder of doing, than their brethren beyond the Atlantic), at a minute's warning, to wait upon him, authorizes the inference, that they considered themselves, not as imposing a burden on their guest, but as furthering his views, at some sacrifice of their own convenience. In short, if all this, as the Captain assures us, while writing at Boston, was very pleasant and agreeable, the terms in which he reverts to it, at Baltimore, are as inappropriate, as they are severe. Captain Hall has been a great traveller, and possibly has been more abroad than at home. We are quite sure he would, with great zeal, discharge all the duties of a resident to any traveller thrown within his reach; but he may have to learn, from experience,

that when, to do this, ‘he leaves his business at a minute’s warning,’ it is not pleasant to find that he has been regarded, by those he meant to serve, as cramming objects of supposed curiosity down their throats ;—and for so doing, be held up to the ridicule of the reading world in England and America.

We will dwell a moment on another topic pretty closely allied to this. Captain Hall remarks many times, that the Americans constantly themselves praised what they called him to examine. They perplexed him with apologies for what they felt was amiss, excuses for what was absent, exaggerated praises of what they thought commendable ; and thus manœuvred and managed to make him compliment them. This was the case at Boston, Albany, West Point, and we believe everywhere but Baltimore. Some few intelligent persons only have credit for their abstinence from this kind of persecution. Now, with reference to statements like this in Captain Hall’s book, we are somewhat embarrassed. We believe sincerely that he aims at accuracy throughout. We have no doubt he believes he saw and heard everything, which he says he saw and heard ; and we are sure he has not intentionally misrepresented anything. But the thing itself, now alleged, is one which has never fallen under our observation ; though we have had some opportunities of witnessing how travellers are habitually received in this neighborhood, and some experience of the way, in which they are treated in other parts of the country. We never saw nor heard, in any portion of the country, anything of this preposterous exaction of praise. The thing itself is grossly indelicate ; it is at war with the very instinct of politeness ; a slight disparagement of the entertainment you offer a stranger being universal in all countries and all communities, of which we have any knowledge ; and we are only left to suppose that Captain Hall felt some unfriendly process passing in his own mind, and ascribed to the Americans the corresponding sentiment. Conscious that he was dissatisfied, he fancied that they penetrated his feeling, and challenged his praise. Take, for instance, West Point. Captain Hall says,

‘The commandant was kind enough to take me over the whole establishment, including several of the class-rooms, where the cadets were hard at work, in a very business-like manner. My opinion was asked about several points, and of course freely given. I felt scrupulous as to intruding it upon subjects, to which my attention was not expressly called, especially as it happened that I was merely asked what things I approved of, never the contrary.’ Vol. i. p. 51.

Now the commandant, if Captain Hall means the superintendent of the post at West Point, is well known in the United States, as a gentleman, quite as incapable of the want of taste and good manners ascribed to him, as Captain Hall is of making an intentional misstatement. The only rational solution of the difficulty is, that the Captain felt himself in the condition of a dissatisfied tourist, and imagined that all who met him read his feelings, and were determined to extort from him all the praise they could.

The truth is, Captain Hall evidently mistook his own feelings, and came to this country with principles and opinions utterly incapacitating him from receiving favorable impressions of it. As he is at considerable pains to explain his previous feelings, and as the confidence, to which his opinions are entitled, really depends not a little on the prepossessions under which they were formed, it is a matter of some importance, in the criticism of his work, to settle this point. He tells us, that his first acquaintance with America commenced in 1804 and 1805, as a midshipman on board the Leander flag-ship, on the Halifax station. If he remained two or three years in that vessel, or on that station, he was on our coasts during a period of greater and more universal irritation, than ever existed between the two countries in time of peace; and he confesses, that he himself 'was not very well disposed toward the Americans.' The Captain thinks he got over these feelings, and acquired friendly ones in their place. He alleges, however, no occasion for the change, but his having been thrown far from this country in the course of service, having had his knowledge of mankind extended, and having heard Americans praise their own country in the most animating and unqualified manner. Whether these circumstances were likely to work a change in a person of Captain Hall's opinions, all of which are at variance with notions universally received in this country,—who believes that an established church is the sheet-anchor of the state; that loyalty to *the person* of the king, distinct from attachment to the institutions and soil of the country, is the glory of an Englishman; and who made his first acquaintance with America as an officer on board the admiral's ship, on the Halifax station, twenty-three years ago,—we leave to judges of human nature to say.

Captain Hall admits, that the favorable predispositions, with which he landed in America, were changed to feelings some-

what different. It might be inferred, when he speaks of ‘the gradual destruction of his best hopes on the subject,’ that this change was slow, and the result of his general survey of the whole country and deliberate study of its institutions. We find, however, on the ninth of August, 1827, that the Captain’s mind was already made up. On that day, he was invited to a public dinner, at Brockville, in Upper Canada; and in a speech to the company, he indirectly compares the revolution of the United States to a mutiny of the British navy, more injurious to the mutineers than to the government; he rather sneeringly mentions our government, in connexion with that of Chile (which he calls a queer-looking political infant), as ‘another description of infant, of age the day it was born;’ and he leaves the Canadians to judge, ‘whether it has grown older or younger, stronger or weaker, by time.’ He tells them, ‘they are not so *unfortunate* as to be independent of England, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, nor is she of them, but that they are much better off than if they were.’ Captain Hall, at this time, had passed just *forty-five days* in the United States. He had seen little or nothing, in our country, but the city of New York, the penitentiaries of that state, which he commends as models; West Point, which he thinks well conducted; the Highlands, Stockbridge, the Erie canal, and the western part of the prosperous state of New York. He had not yet seen our verbose, nought-doing legislatures, our ignorant, changeable courts of justice, our stormy elections, our slavery, our backwoods, our southern regions of *malaria*. And yet he had come to the grand and decisive conclusions just mentioned. If Captain Hall’s account of the progress and change of his opinions be correct, it must be allowed that he came to very decisive results, in a very short time, and on very partial observations. But the whole history which he gives us of his feelings shows, that he mistook that personal complacency and kindness, which are acquired in the process of obtaining, and from the fact of possessing, a hundred or two of letters of introduction to a country you intend to explore, for a real prepossession in favor of the country itself. We cannot,—giving Captain Hall credit for any impartiality and talent of philosophical observation,—suppose, that the forty-five days, after his first landing, in which he really fell in with nothing very inauspicious, produced the great conclusions which he announced at Brockville. It is

impossible, that the Captain should have approached us in a frame of mind enabling him to see the country in a favorable light. We have no doubt he intended to do us justice ; it may be that he does it. Rhadamanthus was not an unjust judge, though he scourged first and then listened. Captain Hall had certainly inflicted on us the sentence of his disapprobation, before he had seen much of the country, or any of the things he most disrelishes.

We shall farther illustrate this, by an instance of unfavorable judgment of America, occurring very early in his travels, and in which, we are constrained to say, the Captain deals us out very hard measure. On his ascent up the North River, he makes these remarks ;

‘ All the world over, I suspect the great mass of people care mighty little about scenery, and visit such places merely for the sake of saying they have been there. I own, however, that I was at first rather taken in with respect to this matter in America ; and really fancied, from the flaming descriptions we had given us of the wonders and beauties of the country, that the persons describing it were more than usually sensible to its charms. But we now began to suspect, most grievously, that our friends, of whom we were striving with all our might to think well in every point, were, like most folks elsewhere, nearly as insensible to the beauties of nature, as we had reason to fear, from their public exhibitions, they were to the graces of art.

‘ On board the steam-boats on the superb Hudson, and in the canal-boat on the pretty Mohawk, the scenery was either unheeded, or when noticed at all, was looked at by our companions with indifference. There was, I grant, now and then, a great deal of talk about such things ; and we had seen in their road-books and other writings much about the extraordinary wonders, and the natural beauties of their country ; but as yet, generally speaking, we had met a perfect insensibility to either, on the part of the inhabitants. Neither is this to be explained by supposing them to have become too well acquainted with the objects in question ; for I think it happens generally, that when there is a real, and not an imaginary, perception of the beauties of nature, the pleasure arising from their contemplation goes on increasing ; and habit, so far from rendering such scenes too familiar to be interesting, only contributes to unfold new points for admiration. Since, however, it is impossible to maintain artificial rapture for more than a few minutes, it is easier to say nothing at all ; and thus we have an explanation of the anomaly alluded to.’ Vol. i. pp. 68, 69.

Here we are accused of indifference to the beauties of natural scenery, and to the graces of art ; of making flaming descriptions of what we do not feel ; of perfect insensibility to the extraordinary wonders and natural beauties of the country. This is a little softened at first, it is true, by saying that a like indifference to scenery exists among the people everywhere. But if the Captain is in earnest in this admission, we do not see why anything need have been said on the subject. The European road-books are as full of this kind of description as ours ; and if the Captain thinks, that both in America and in Europe it is all sham, there is no need of dwelling upon it at all. But there is a pointedness in the reproach, as applied to America, which cannot be mistaken. The Captain will not, at first, allow that this seeming indifference is the effect of habit. 'If the perception,' says he, 'is real, not imaginary, the pleasure increases by indulgence.' This is on the eighteenth of June, when the Captain had in hand to show the apathy of the Americans. On the sixteenth of July, when it was his object to apologize for himself, he tells us, that 'he knows few things more fatiguing than fine scenery ; and I suspect, most people, after passing three or four weeks in Switzerland, if they dared own it, would say, they were right glad to escape into Italy, or even into France. At all events, we had not much fatigue of this kind to complain of, for take it all in all, a more unpicturesque country is hardly to be found anywhere.'

Take it all in all ! The Captain, as appears by the line on his map, as well as from his book, saw but an exceedingly small part of America ; about as much as a man would see of England, who should drive in the mail-coach from Liverpool to London, and thence to Edinburgh, by the way of Carlisle. With the exception of what he saw in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, he actually saw no portion of those regions, which could, in the common course of physical geography, present fine scenery. He visited neither the highlands of New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, nor any of the Western states. With the exceptions mentioned, he adhered to the alluvial belt along the sea-coast, and to the great rivers. This surely is not taking the country all in all. But we did not mean to dwell on that point, not caring whether the country be picturesque or unpicturesque, and unwilling to assimilate, for a moment, the travels of Captain Hall and Dr Syntax.

We wished only to point out, how the Captain gives himself the benefit of a principle, of which he denies the benefit to us. But at length he gets back from his Canadian excursion, and reaches Lake George. His remarks, on this occasion, on the subject of scenery, taken in connexion with those already quoted, are certainly conceived in a resolution to find nothing right.

'On the eighth of September we made a delightful voyage along Lake George, freely acknowledging [why freely acknowledging?] that we had come at last to some beautiful scenery in the United States, beautiful in every respect, and leaving nothing to wish for. I own that Lake George exceeded my expectations, as far as it exceeds the power of the Americans to overpraise it, which is no small compliment.' [A greater one to the lake than to the Americans. But this, though rather ungracious, and in its place gratuitous, for it seems the Americans are right for once, might pass. What follows is the ingenuity of fault-finding.] 'I began now to suspect, however, that they really preferred many things, which have no right to be mentioned in the same day with this finished piece of lake scenery. At all events, I often heard Lake George spoken of, by them, without that degree of animation, of which they were so lavish on some other, and as I thought, very indifferent topics of admiration.

'It is difficult, I must confess, to discover precisely what people feel with respect to scenery, and I may be wrong in supposing so many of my Transatlantic friends insensible to its influence. But certainly during our stay in the country, while we heard many spots lauded to the utmost length that words could go, we had often occasion to fancy there was no genuine sentiment at the bottom of all this praise. At the time I speak of, this was a great puzzle to me; and I could not understand the apparent indifference shown to the scenery of this beautiful lake, by most of our companions. Subsequent experience, however, led me to see, that where the fine arts are not steadily cultivated, where in fact there is little taste for that description of excellence, and not very much is known about it, there cannot possibly be much hearty admiration of the beauties of nature.' Vol. i. p. 220.

Here the Captain inadvertently gives a reason for the wrong fault. What he was here to account for was the alleged indifference to Lake George, compared with other scenery; and we fancy it would indeed puzzle the Captain to give a plausible account of this imaginary perversity of taste. Forgetting that this was the problem he had put and undertaken to solve, the Captain reverts to his old point, that his 'trans-

atlantic friends' are insensible to all scenery. When they affect to admire it, they are insincere ; what they do praise is of an inferior kind ; and to that which is perfect they are insensible ! This tenacious pursuit of a matter so small, with the seemingly fixed purpose to find nothing right about it, appears to us to comport better with the character of the Fearons and the Fauxes, than with that of so distinguished and liberal a traveller as Captain Hall.

His remarks about the weather are equally ungracious and querimonious. Captain Hall went to Cambridge, and

' On returning to town, half drowned in the deluges of rain, which had been falling all the morning, we were much amused with the apologies made to us by every one we met, for the state of the weather,—as if they could help its raining and blowing ! ' ' Almost every person was in the fidgets about the bad weather ; not at all on account of its inconvenience either to themselves or to us,—that seemed quite a subordinate consideration,—but purely as it acted against their nationality, by making us suspect their climate was not much better than that of England.

' In general, the month of October is very fine in that part of the country—at least so we were told a hundred times—and we should have believed the fact implicitly upon one tithe of these assurances, had not doubts been raised in our minds by this incessant show of irritation at the poor elements, for daring to belie the fine speeches made in their favor. We really did not care two straws about the matter, and, if nothing had been said, would not have minded what could not be helped ; for we were far too much interested by the novelty of all we saw, and far too grateful for the hospitality which met us at every turn, to think of drawing those offensive comparisons between the two climates, with which the good people of Boston fancied our heads were full, when, in truth, it was only our wet feet that gave us any concern.' Vol. I. pp. 284, 285.

Had this come from any body, but a gentleman of exemplary politeness and good manners, we should have thought it quite small and positively unamiable. What more natural, when you have taken a lady and gentleman on an excursion of pleasure, in which you have been overtaken by a drenching shower, than to express your regret ? What more forced, than for the lady and gentleman to call such expressions of regret ' apologizing for the weather ? ' What more gratuitous, than to say, the bad weather was regretted, not on account of the exposure of the health of your friends—one of whom is a lady,—but because it weakens your argument in a national controversy ?

What more natural, than that every different individual that Captain Hall met (not knowing what others had said) should, in the month of October, speak of the proverbially genial weather, which prevails in New England in that month? What more a matter of course, than to observe,—if such were the fact,—that the abundant rains of that particular October were unseasonable? What more harsh than to call this, ‘irritation at the elements for belying the fine speeches made in their favor’?

We must take leave to add, that the indifference, which Captain Hall here expresses to the state of the weather, is what, upon reflection, he can hardly feel, or if he does, it is a factitious feeling. The state of the weather nearly imports the health, the spirits, and the convenience of almost every man. In all countries it is a prominent, as it is a natural topic of conversation. It is a vastly more dignified and curious one, than most of the topics, to which people, who have been told at boarding-school that it is vulgar to talk about the weather, make an affected resort, as a substitute. And in point of fact, Captain Hall, in the whole course of his book, habitually and on every occasion adverts to the weather, in his narrative. We think it highly probable that he travelled with a thermometer, hygrometer, and barometer; that he kept a regular meteorological journal; and that it was very difficult for a cloud to sail up from the horizon, without his noting whether it was *cirro-stratus* or *cumulo-stratus*. If Captain Hall did not do all this, Alexander Humboldt did.

The persons of whom Captain Hall speaks so plainly, it will be remembered, are designated by him as his friends; they were endeavoring to exercise toward him the duties of hospitality, and more especially to promote his objects as a traveller; and for these their intentions, the Captain professes, and we have no doubt feels, a sentiment of gratitude. While ridiculing the bad taste and excess of their attentions, Captain Hall has this advantage, that he delicately suppresses names, and makes an earnest profession of kindness to individuals; and thus, without necessarily giving personal offence, is able, not merely to make harsh allusions, which must bring themselves pretty near home to somebody; but to adopt a general tone toward the country, in a high degree unfriendly. We would imitate, as far as possible, this discreet and delicate course pursued by Captain Hall. We wish to speak with plainness and disappro-

bation of his work, as respects matter, manner, and spirit ; but in doing so, we wish to separate the book from the writer, or rather the writer from the man. We are as sincere as Captain Hall can be, in disclaiming a wish or willingness to offend, and have no other object than to speak fairly and truly of his publication, regarding it as one calculated to affect the public mind, in England, on the subject of America. We shall accordingly, without further preliminary reflections, proceed to make a few observations on several portions of these volumes, without any other arrangement, than the succession of topics presented in the volumes themselves.

Captain Hall landed at New York on the fifteenth of May, and with the exception of an excursion to Stockbridge, proceeded, by the usual route, through New York to the falls of Niagara. One of the first things, which arrested his attention, was the excellent breakfast served up at the hotel, where he took lodgings. This is described in two or three pages, in terms like these :

'But I am quite forgetting the glorious breakfast ! We had asked merely for some fresh shad, a fish reported to be excellent, as indeed it proved. But a great, steaming, juicy beefsteak also made its appearance, flanked by a dish of mutton cutlets. The shad is a native of the American waters, I believe exclusively, and if so, it is almost worthy of a [worth a ?] voyage across the Atlantic, to make its acquaintance. To these viands were added a splendid arrangement of snow white rolls, regiments of hot toast, with oceans of tea and coffee.' Vol. i. p. 8.

There is a good deal of such information and such writing in Captain Hall's work, which we cannot think to be in very good taste ; although, as good writing is one of the fine arts—and the finest of them,—and as Captain Hall assures his reader there is little taste for the fine arts in this country, and not very much known about them, we may be wholly wrong. It is, indeed, with considerable diffidence, that we express the opinion, that the style of Captain Hall errs in the extreme of plainness. It is frequently slovenly, and still more frequently incorrect. His pages contain a good deal of bad grammar, and several words, which are neither English nor American. With respect to the matter of the quotation we have just given, who that finds Captain Hall, at the close of his work, despatching in a single chapter, and that a short one, the whole tour from Louisville, by the way of the rivers, to St Louis, back

through Illinois and Indiana to Louisville, up the river to Ohio and Pittsburg, and across the mountains to Philadelphia, but must regret, that the numerous and detailed descriptions of breakfasts and dinners, and the like small matters, could not have been retrenched to make room for his observations on the Western country?

Captain Hall went down to breakfast at the *table d'hôte*, in order to get acquainted with some of the *natives*, as he calls them, and this he thought ‘would be the easiest thing in the world.’ But ‘our familiar designs were all frustrated, by the imperturbable silence and gravity of the company. At dinner, which was at three o’clock, we were again baffled by the same cold and civil but very unsociable formality.’ Why this should surprise Captain Hall, just arriving from England, we cannot imagine. The defect in our American manners alluded to is unquestionable. No one who has travelled in France, or associated with Frenchmen, can fail to perceive what an advantage, both for immediate ease and permanent cheerfulness, is possessed by that amiable people, in the facility of their intercourse. But Captain Hall never met any other manners, than those he censures at New York, in any part of his own country; and if he himself was prepared to adopt in a different mode of approaching strangers, it was because his habits as a traveller had overcome his temper as an Englishman. Captain Hall not unfrequently alludes to the feelings we ought to cherish towards England, as the mother country. On this point at least, if on no other, we may well say to him,

‘Have you not love enough to bear with us,  
When that *cold* humor, which our mother gave us,  
Makes us forgetful?’

While at New York, Captain Hall visited the high-school for girls, and while there, on being appealed to, on the subject of reading, entered into an argument with the schoolmistress, on the pronunciation of the words *combat* and *chivalry*. The little girls, it seems, had pronounced the *o*, in the first word, like *o* in *commerce*; and the *ch* in *chivalry* like *sh*. Captain Hall very properly and correctly informed her, that in England, the *o*, in the word in question, was pronounced like short *u*—*cumbat*, and the *ch* as in *chin*; and that such was the pronunciation of Walker’s Dictionary. In a subsequent part of his work, Captain Hall relates the substance of a conversation which he held with Mr Noah Webster, in which that gentle-

man stated that, in reference to words pronounced differently in the two countries,

He “would adopt that pronunciation, which was most consonant to the principles of the English language.” “For example, you in England universally say *chivalry*, we as generally say *shivalry*; but I should certainly give it according to the first way, as more consistent with the principles of the language. On the other hand, your way [the English] of pronouncing the word *deaf* is *def*; ours, as if it were written *deef*; and as this is the correct mode, from which you have departed, I shall adhere to the American way.”

In cases, where more than one mode of pronouncing a word has considerable currency, it may be difficult to say, which is the most approved either in England or America. We remember to have asked one of the most fastidious speakers in the British Parliament, a member of the House of Lords, whether he would pronounce the vowel in the first syllable of *rather*, like *a* in *father*, in *hat*, or in *hate*; and he declared himself unable to decide among the three sounds, which was of best authority. Still, however, we hold that pronunciation is a matter of authority and usage; and we think the cases must be very rare, and present a very well admitted ambiguity, to authorize us, as Mr Webster proposes, to resort to principles of the English language, in defiance of the received English pronunciation. We also deny wholly the propriety of making a distinction between the American usage and the English usage, *as such*, and the setting up of a standard for each. The two examples which Mr Webster has chosen, as reported by Captain Hall, show the difficulty and the impropriety of such an attempt. Mr Webster, it seems, thinks that in America *deaf* is pronounced *deef*, and *chivalry* is pronounced *shivalry*. We differ as to the fact, in both cases, or rather our experience is different from Mr Webster’s experience. If our ears do not mislead us, both these words are generally pronounced by good speakers in America, as they are in England.

Being on the subject of language, we will dwell a moment on the topic of Americanisms. Every one recollects the din kept up by the English tourists and critics, on this subject, for several years, and not yet wholly appeased. Accordingly Captain Hall was surprised, when Mr Webster assured him, that there were not fifty words in all, which are used in America and not in England and he (Captain Hall) was unable to collect nearly that number. What a comment on the pages of

sarcasm, grave and gay, with which the British press has teemed on this subject, from the Edinburgh and Quarterly down. Captain Hall was still more surprised and incredulous, when told that even these fifty words were originally most orthodox English words, brought over to America by the early settlers, and preserved in use here, while they have become obsolete on the other side of the water. Subsequent inquiry, however, Captain Hall informs us, as far as he has pushed it, has also confirmed this statement.

It is inconceivable to us how, in the work containing representations like these, Captain Hall could have admitted a train of remarks, like that which fills the latter portion of the sixteenth chapter. The main proposition there supported by him is, that the misconstructions and misunderstandings of English travellers in America arise 'from an imperfect acquaintance with the very language (the English) supposed to be common to both' nations. The Captain remarks, that

'In America it so happens,—I don't at present inquire wherefore,—that the English language is somewhat modified. I speak not alone of the meaning of individual words, in many of which also the change is abundantly perceptible, but chiefly of the general acceptation of language, as connected with a set of feelings, and a state of circumstances, materially different from those which exist in England.' Vol. i. p. 241.

At the risk of being quoted as an illustration of the truth and justice of Captain Hall's statement, we must candidly allow, that in this remark and in what follows, to the end of the chapter, our limited knowledge of the English language, and of the state of things in England and America, does not enable us to comprehend the Captain's drift. He does not favor us with any *fact* or *instance*, but confines himself to such assertions as these; 'Both parties will often be wider of the intended mark, than if their respective languages,—as happens between our neighbors the French and us,—were entirely different, not merely in their local usage or occasional idiom, but in their whole structure.' 'I will say this, that in all my travels, both amongst heathens and amongst Christians, I have never encountered any people by whom I found it nearly so difficult to make myself understood as by the Americans.' When it is recollected, that Captain Hall has been a traveller among several eastern nations, of whose dialects he must have been utterly ignorant, and by whom of course he could not have

been understood at all, it will be admitted, that there is an extravagance, nay a wildness, in assertions like these, which seriously impairs his pretensions to the character of a philosophical observer or a calm describer.

Having made these strange, unaccountable statements, Captain Hall follows them up with another, if possible still more fantastic, and which he utters himself with some misgiving, ‘as looking a little paradoxical at first.’ ‘So much for language,’ says he; ‘but I may take this occasion, though rather premature, to add, that I consider America and England, as differing more from one another in many essential respects, than any two European nations I have ever visited.’ We do not know what may be ‘essential respects,’ in the comparison of nations, in Captain Hall’s system. As commonly considered, descent, language, law, and the form of government, would be entitled to be so called. Nine tenths of our people are of English descent, and that traced back barely two centuries. We speak a language, in which Captain Hall could not collect fifty words peculiar to ourselves; and that is more than can be said of the current language of any two counties of old England. Our law is English law, with as few alterations, perhaps, as have taken place in the English law at home, in any period of two centuries since the time of William the Conqueror. Our government, though certainly very different from the English, resembles it in that which alone has given strength and credit to the English government, we mean a system of representation, and this also, English writers often boast, we have borrowed from them. We should be glad to know what two European nations are more like each other, in these or any other respects, than England and America. Paradoxes like these pass the limits of piquant exaggeration, and create just doubts of the general soundness of a writer’s discretion.

Before we quite leave the topic of language, we must point out another of these strange overstatements. We shall presently have to speak of the resolute partiality, with which Captain Hall views every thing within the British North American dominions, contrasted with his coldness towards the United States. In nothing is this contrast more distinct, perhaps, than in the following observation.

‘I may here take occasion to remark, when treating of these customs and other refinements, that *in every part of Canada* we found the inhabitants *speaking English*, and acting and looking

like Englishmen, without any discernible difference. The dress of the people, also, was not such as to excite notice, by its difference from that worn in London; and, generally speaking, there was nothing sufficiently prominent, either in their manners or appearance, to distinguish them from persons similarly circumstanced in the mother country. In the United States, on the contrary, as I have before hinted, the language, the thoughts, and even the tone of the voice, as well as the general appearance, are too obviously foreign and peculiar to the country to escape notice. I do not pretend to say which of the two is best; that is a matter of mere taste, about which it were idle to dispute. I merely state the fact, as it certainly affords the grounds of some very remarkable distinctions between those adjacent countries, generally, but erroneously, thought to bear a considerable resemblance.' Vol. i. p. 140.

These remarks (singularly enough) are made *apropos* of a verandah to the house, where he was entertained in a sequestered region of Upper Canada; an appendage to a mansion, which Captain Hall justly likens to what he saw in Hindostan; and which escaped our notice, if it be peculiarly characteristic of the domestic architecture of England. But we let that go, as also the article of dress, in which, it seems, the inhabitants of the regions between Burlington Bay and Lake Simcoe strangely resemble the denizens of Bond Street. We must, however, express our private opinion, that there has not been a coat worn within those latitudes for six years, which was not made by a journeyman tailor, who, after having cut and cabaged himself out of credit in New York, Utica, and Rochester, had run off, with his newest fashions, to York or Holland's Landing. But we will confine ourselves to the matter of language alone. Captain Hall, it seems, 'found the inhabitants in every part of Canada, speaking English and acting and looking like Englishmen, without any discernible difference.' He informs us, in another chapter, that he made a visit to the 'French peasantry, who form the mass of the population in Lower Canada.' We suppose some little qualification ought to be made of the pure English spoken in every part of Canada, in consideration of the fact, that the mass of the population, in Lower Canada, do not speak it at all. But limiting Captain Hall's remark to that portion of the country, which he is describing when he makes it, (although he extends it, in terms, to every part of Canada,) how does the case stand? A part of the population of it is no doubt of English origin,

which has been established perhaps two generations, on the spot where Captain Hall found them. This must, from the nature of the case, be a small part of the population. It is *possible*, that this portion of the population has undergone no change in dress, manners, and external appearance, since it emigrated from England ; or rather (for this supposition will not meet Captain Hall's statement of facts) that precisely those changes, which since 1763 have been taking place in these matters in England, have been, simultaneously, and by a mysterious sympathy in manners, tones, and coat-flaps, taking place in Upper Canada, so that what the Captain asserts of the inhabitants of every part of Canada, may be true of this small part of it. We say, though this is highly astonishing, we believe it on his authority. The residue of the population consists of descendants of the ancient French colonists, of emigrants from the United States, and of Irish and Scotch emigrants ; and we must be permitted to doubt the fact, that there is that striking similarity between these portions of the Canadian population and the English, in points where the English and the Americans of the United States differ. That a colony of emigrants, drafted from the North of Ireland, or even from Glengary, should speak the language, without a discernible difference from the English, is much such a statement, as that made by Captain Hall in a former work, and candidly corrected in this, that several eastern nations employ the Chinese character, and understand it when written, without comprehending it as a spoken language.

But it is time to return to New York. Captain Hall attended a court of justice there, and remarks, 'among other things, it was curious to hear one of the lawyers quote an English decision.' Why this should be curious, in the apprehension of a gentleman acquainted with the sources of our law, we cannot imagine. If Captain Hall visited the courts of New Orleans, he probably heard the lawyers cite recent French decisions.

'The chief justice,' continues the Captain, 'and the two judges were on the bench; but I must say, that the absence of the wigs and gowns took away much more from their dignity, than I had previously supposed possible. Perhaps I was the more struck with this omission, as it was the first thing I saw, which made me distrust the wisdom with which the Americans had stripped away so much of what had been held *sacred* so long. Apparent

trifles such as these ought never, I think, to be measured by their individual importance ; but, in fairness to the subject, should be taken in connexion with myriads of associations, all combining to steady our habits, to let us know distinctly what we are about, and thus to give us confidence in one another, which, after all, is the real source of power and happiness in a state.' Vol. i. p. 22.

Captain Hall would, we think, do well to recollect, that the preposterous and uncomfortable thing, called a *wig*, is of comparatively modern origin ; and that it is worth the experiment, whether justice cannot be administered, unless the judge's head be wrapped up in an ill-looking mass of false hair, stitched to a bit of buckram, and clotted with pomatum and flour. Addison, having pictured to himself the manly appearance of Ciceron and Demosthenes, could not help exclaiming, ' How cold and dead a figure, in comparison of these two great men, does an orator often make at the British bar, holding up his head with the most insipid serenity, and stroking the sides of a long wig, that reaches down to his middle ! ' In fact, if Captain Hall is warranted by the public sentiment of any respectable portion of the English community, in reckoning the judge's wig among those 'things *sacred*,' which 'steady our habits,' 'let us know what we are about,' and 'give us confidence in one another,' we shall begin to agree with him, that the English language is not understood in America. This new classification of things *sacred* reminds us again of Captain Golownin's Travels, where we are told, that the innocent Japanese thought the Russians had changed their religion, because the members of his party wore wigs, differing from those worn by the last Russians they had seen.

On his way up the North River, Captain Hall gives a very interesting account of the penitentiary at Sing Sing, and bestows merited commendation on its superintendent, Captain Lynds. Captain Hall makes a suggestion, in reference to prison discipline, which strikes us as exceedingly wise, and worthy of a full and fair trial.

' Why, if disobedience be punished, should not obedience be rewarded ? And how easy it would be, to give the convicts a direct and immediate interest in conforming to the rules of the place. Suppose a prisoner were sentenced to several years' confinement ; then, if he behave well for a week together, let one day be struck off his term of confinement ; if he continue to deport himself correctly for a month, let the term of his detention be

shortened a fortnight; and if he shall go on steadily for six months, then let half a year be struck off his whole period; and so on, according to any rates that may be found suitable.' Vol. i. p. 43.

This suggestion appears to us as hopeful, as it is simple. We trust it will receive due consideration, from those intrusted with the care of our penitentiaries.

The third chapter of Captain Hall's book is chiefly devoted to the United States' Military Academy at West Point. Our traveller sets forth with rather more circumstance than we think they merited, his proceedings and difficulties in procuring dinner. If it were necessary to go so much into detail on these matters, it would have been proper to state (if, as we believe, such be the fact), that no regular tavern is permitted, by the discipline of the institution, to be kept at West Point; and that, accordingly, strangers who arrive at other than the usual hours, must suffer a little, in the promptness of necessary attendance. Had Captain Hall, instead of making *personal* application to the servants in the steward's kitchen, where very likely it was contrary to rule to issue rations to a stranger, made himself first known to some of the gentlemen of the post, we warrant he would have been promptly supplied, not only with a cup of milk for his infant child, but with everything for himself, which comfort could require or hospitality furnish. These things, we are aware, are rather small; but nothing, which is important enough to be stated, is too unimportant to merit to be correctly stated.

Captain Hall labors under misapprehension, as to the main object of the important institution now in question. He observes,

'The object in view, I am told, is *not so much* to breed up young men for actual military service, as to disseminate, by their means, throughout the different parts of the country, a sound knowledge of the accurate [?] sciences, as well as a taste for literary and scientific pursuits; and also to spread more widely correct ideas of military discipline and military knowledge.' Vol. i. p. 47.

As far as we understand Captain Hall,—for this statement is neither very distinct nor wholly consistent with itself,—he misapprehended the information given him of the object, for which the Military Academy was founded and is kept up. We do not deny, that it was a part of this object, 'to spread more

widely correct ideas of military discipline and military knowledge ;' but this is not inconsistent with the plan of ' training up young men for actual military service.' It was for this last object primarily, we ought to say rather exclusively, that the Academy was founded,—that the American service might, in time of war, be well supplied with accomplished officers. It is a matter of course, that a somewhat greater number of cadets should be educated, than can find a place in the ranks of the army. The general tendency and design of the system are still to give an education to as many as will be required in the army, and to no more. But the precise number cannot ever be foreseen ; or if it could, casualties will take place, frustrating the wisest calculations, and requiring an extraordinary supply. It is also necessary, that the cadet should be allowed the liberty of retiring from the service, if, after a reasonable trial (which the law has fixed at one year, in addition to the four passed in the Academy), he finds himself, on the ground of health, disposition, or other cause, not well qualified for the soldier's life. In these various ways, more young men certainly are educated from year to year, than find from year to year a regular promotion in the army ; and it may, for aught we know to the contrary, have been incidentally said, with reference to such, that the Military Academy discharged a valuable purpose, in furnishing them an education, which would enable them, even in civil life, to be useful to the public. Such, however, is a contingent result, and not the object of the institution ; which is to train up officers for the service of the United States. The other object, attributed to the institution, that of disseminating a taste for literary as well as scientific pursuits, is so wholly foreign from its nature, that it is a general opinion, that literature is not sufficiently cultivated at the Academy, even in reference to the direct military education of officers of the army.

Captain Hall at first thought, that the Academy was well calculated to effect the objects, which he ascribes to it ; but says, that after viewing the country from end to end, the confidence formerly entertained by him of its utility was much weakened.

' My early impressions,' he adds, ' certainly were, that the West Point Academy would do much good, by spreading knowledge and *taste* of a higher order than, *I was assured*, was anywhere else to be found in the country. I then sincerely rejoiced at its

success, so far, and do so still, though with slender hopes of its doing the country any essential service.' Vol. I. p. 48.

As the Captain admits that the institution appeared to be very well conducted, we do not see why he should have slender hopes of its being of service; nor does he tell us why he changed his opinion. The truth, however, is, that whoever undertook to inform him, that it was among the objects of the Military Academy to disseminate a taste for literary pursuits, and to spread *taste* of a higher order than was elsewhere to be found, gave the Captain information, which even a hasty glance over the list of studies must have shown to be erroneous. Captain Hall visited places of general education among us, where the ancient and modern languages, the arts of writing and speaking well, and belles-lettres in general are assiduously cultivated. These branches are almost wholly excluded from the course at West Point. Still, the course of instruction is very thorough in those parts of the exact and natural sciences, which belong to the education of the officer and the engineer; and united with these are the French language, something of history, geography, and the moral sciences, and the practical education of the soldier. Thirty or forty young men, the *élite* of more than twice that number, are annually turned out of the Academy, after four years passed in these studies; and Captain Hall, without assigning any reason, says he has 'slender hopes, that the institution is doing the country any essential service.' We cannot comprehend the philosophy of this judgment.

The Captain finds fault with the practice of keeping a register of merit, and recommends, as the greatest secret of discipline, military and domestic, 'to punish—if at all—adequately and at once.' This registry of delinquencies, he observes, was new to him, and he thinks it must 'cramp a generous mind.' But this is a matter, which depends on habit and the light in which things are regarded by the community. In the great public schools of England, young men of sixteen or seventeen, after a preliminary preparation that would be thought not over decent in this country, are, we are told, scourged on their bare flesh. It must be admitted that if this be the true mode of punishing ingenuous youth, the registry of delinquencies ought to be abandoned.

We have already ventured to state, that there positively must have been some misconception on our traveller's mind,

in thinking he was asked to praise what he saw at the Academy. He observes that 'the cadets were remarkably deficient in that erect carriage and decided, firm gait, which gives what in the old world is called a military air, and is looked upon as a primary requisite in a soldier. Instead of the chest being braced or held forward, it is drawn back into a concavity, while the shoulders necessarily assume a correspondent roundness.' We begin to suspect not only that the language of America is, as the Captain assures us, harder to understand than that of the Loo-Choo islands or Corea, but that we see with different optics. We have passed nearly as many days at West Point, as the Captain did hours (for the minute and extensive observation, which he made of the establishment, was accomplished after the hour of three o'clock, P. M. of one day), and we never suspected that the cadets were 'remarkably' round-shouldered or hollow-breasted. Captain Hall seems to have been struck with the inherent improbability of the statement, that the pupils of a very well conducted military school should be remarkably deficient in an erect carriage and military air,—should draw the chest in and the shoulders up; and he seeks to render the matter more likely, by adding the following apologetic remarks ; 'To foreign eyes, nothing can be more awkward than this mode of carrying the body. In justification, however, of the practice at West Point, it is fair to state, that it prevails more or less over the whole country ; and being nearly as characteristic, as the tone of voice, would almost as inevitably betray an American in other parts of the world !' Those, who trust the accuracy of the Captain's eye in the matter of the cadets, will find no difficulty in doing it in reference to our whole population. We have no doubt it is as true of the latter as the former.

Captain Hall made an excursion from Albany to Stockbridge. At this early stage of his journey, he found from his notes, that

'The most striking circumstance in the American character, which had come under our notice, was the constant habit of praising themselves, their institutions, and their country, either in downright terms, or by some would-be indirect allusions, which were still more tormenting. I make use of this sharp-edged word, because it really was exceedingly teasing, when we were quite willing and ready to praise all that was good, and also to see everything, whether good or bad, in the fairest light, to be called

upon so frequently to admit the justice of such exaggerations. It is considered, I believe, all over the world, as bad manners for a man to praise himself and family. Now, to praise one's country, appears, to say the least of it, in the next degree of bad taste.' Vol. i. p. 61.

A very grave Roman historian was of a different opinion, and observed, ' *Pulchrum est benefacere reipublicæ; etiam bene dicere haud absurdum est.*' The reasons, why good manners do not permit a man to praise himself or family, apply but very partially to praising one's country. We are willing, however, for argument's sake, to admit Captain Hall's principle, that it is, to say the least, nearly in as bad taste to praise one's country as it is to praise one's wife and children, although the Captain loses no opportunity of lauding Great Britain. We will admit another thing, not as being in our judgment true, but for the sake of argument and because it seemed true to Captain Hall, namely, that the Americans, more than any other people, praise themselves. What good account can be given of this proneness of the Americans to praise themselves? We suppose that effects require causes in America as elsewhere. If Captain Hall attributes this aptitude to praise our country and its institutions to a warmer patriotism, than is felt by Englishmen, we ought to thank him for the compliment. Such, however, of course was not his purpose; such we do not pretend to be the fact. But if Captain Hall will read over,—what he tells us he has never done,—the pages of the travellers in America; and if he will revise his recollection of the language held, almost without exception, on the subject of America, by the periodical press of Great Britain, he will see a sufficient cause, why the Americans should feel themselves constantly on the defensive. *They are constantly attacked.* In many cases, however, the traveller (and this has often happened to Captain Hall) gratuitously ascribes to the American a feeling, corresponding to one which actuates his own mind. We need go no farther for an example than the paragraph next to that, last quoted.

' It was curious to see, with what vigilant adroitness, the Americans availed themselves of every little circumstance, to give effect to this self-laudatory practice. I happened one day to mention to a lady, that I had been amused by observing, how much more the drivers of the stages managed their horses by word of mouth, than by touch of the whip. Upon which she replied, " Oh yes, sir, the circumstance you relate is very interesting; as it shows both

intelligence in the men and sagacity in the animals." This was pretty well ; but I merely smiled and said nothing ; being somewhat tickled by this amiable interchange of human wisdom and brute sagacity. The lady's suspicions, however, instantly took fire on seeing the expression of my countenance, and she answered my smile, by saying, "Nay, sir, do you not think the people in America, upon the whole, particularly intelligent ?" Vol. i. p. 61.

Now, since Captain Hall will have it, that our medium of communication is less intelligible than that, which exists between any two nations on earth, he must allow us occasionally the benefit of such a state of things, although we do not find that he ever does so. It is his standing complaint, that he could not make himself understood ; but it does not appear to have occurred to him, that he might misunderstand the Americans, and that all this importunity, throat-cramming, and self-lauding might really be some different and better thing, than it seemed to him. We are sure, at all events, that he wholly mistook the lady. Without knowing in the least who she was, we can easily picture to ourselves her situation. A traveller like Captain Hall, cannot move *incog.*, in any country. The trumpet must of necessity go before him. The Americans have been taught by experience, what is implied in the visit of a traveller ;

'A chiel 's amang you taking notes,  
And faith he 'll prent it.'

They have been taught by an experience, which Captain Hall, to his honor, has been the first to break in upon, that they cannot ask a traveller to dinner nor enter into conversation with him, but their dinner and their conversation must be served up to them cold, a few months after, in Mr Traveller's book. The poor lady, whom Captain Hall, forgetting his usual delicacy, has so agreeably reminded of his visit, was no doubt under the common feeling which a traveller's advent produces, for the reasons stated, on the American's mind ; and this feeling may be supposed, in the case of a lady, to be productive of a little trepidation at the thought, that whatever she said would be

'Set in a note-book, learned, and conned by rote,  
To cast into her teeth.'

In this frame of mind, she would naturally try to say something a little sententious ; as the most unaffected people, under the

like circumstances, will do. The Captain remarked to her, that ‘he had been amused by observing, how much more the drivers of the stages managed their horses by word of mouth, than by whip.’ What shall the lady do? Keep silence? That would be rude, and would lead the traveller to remark, that the American ladies sit mute when spoken to. Taking the Captain at his word, that he,—a philosophical traveller, a Post-Captain in the British Navy, an observer of men and things all over the world,—really saw something worthy of being noted, remembered, and spoken of, in the degree to which the drivers made their horses understand them, by word of mouth, without the whip, she ventures to agree with him, that it was interesting, and was alike creditable to man and beast. Here the thing ought for ever to have dropped; but not so thought the Captain. This is no joke. The lady has, with ‘vigilant adroitness,’ lain in wait for this chance to praise, not merely the men, but the very horses of the country; and Captain Hall sagaciously smiled, though he said nothing, ‘being somewhat tickled by this amiable interchange of human wisdom and brute sagacity.’ Now the smile, which is apt to show itself on the countenance of a person, who makes a discovery such as Captain Hall fancied he made here, is not, we suppose, of the most winning kind.

‘O what a deal of scorn looks beautiful  
In the contempt and anger of his lip;’

but that was not the lip of the traveller, who has been ‘teased’ by ‘the tormentings’ of self-praise. The Captain’s smile, on the present occasion, if his own notice of its effect was just, was not of a very fascinating character. It set the good lady’s suspicions on fire. She interpreted his smile (and, from his own showing, not unjustly) into one of ridicule and contempt, and then put the question, ‘whether he did not think the American drivers were, upon the whole, a shrewd set of fellows;’ for this (the Captain will thank us for translating her American into English) was all she meant. This question we admit to have been in bad taste; very bad; but one thing we think in rather worse taste, which was, to go and enter all this into the note-book of a journey, undertaken to promote kind feelings between the two countries,—publish it to the world, and draw inferences from it, as regards the characteristics of the American people.

This is an error, of which no experience of its injustice will

cure travellers among us ; although, unjust as it is in all countries, there is none, in which it is so unjust, as in America, to generalize single facts. Let us show how this would operate, in reference to the far more homogeneous population of England. It seems that at Walthamstow in England, it is the custom of the inhabitants, in beating the bounds, on Holy Thursday, to *bump* every *gentleman* they meet. We have before us the report of an action, brought on the first day of June, by Mr James Woolley and Mr James Teale, two very respectable gentlemen, against sundry citizens of the said Walthamstow, for bumping the said gentlemen. Mr Woolley was quietly fishing in the river Lea, at twelve o'clock, when he was approached by a mob of two hundred men, seized by the collar, threatened with blows if he resisted, and being held by his arms and legs, violently swung and *bumped* against a tree. Mr Teale defended himself with a clasp knife, but the mob attempted to push him into the river, and broke his hat with a stick. The prisoner, when called on for a defence, stated, that he went up to the gentleman and said,

“I beg your pardon, sir, but it is a customary thing to bump gentlemen, wherever we meet them, when we are beating the bounds.” The gentleman was then bumped, but I did not bump him, although I have bumped many gentlemen before, without grumbling.

‘*The Magistrate.* Upon my word, then, I suppose you think your politeness in begging a gentleman’s pardon is a sufficient excuse for your bumping him. You first beg his pardon and then say, “we are going to bump you.”

‘*Prisoner.* No, sir, I asked the gentleman, if he would give us leave to bump him ?

‘*Magistrate.* A very likely tale. Did you suppose the gentleman would say, Yes ?

‘*Prisoner.* Most people do, sir, because they know it is a custom.’

One of these bumping gentlemen was a parish officer of Walthamstow, one of that ‘unpaid magistracy,’ which Captain Hall commends so much, to the disparagement of our unqualified, ignorant, democratic judges. Now, if an American traveller, in England, had witnessed this scene, or been present at this trial, and gone to his lodgings, and entered in his notebook, that it is the custom for the British yeomanry, on Holy Thursday, to beat the bounds of their parishes, with their officers at their head, and to ‘lie in wait, with vigilant adroitness,’

to bump any gentleman against a tree, with whom they may fall in,—such American traveller would argue as most travellers in America, Captain Hall among the rest, habitually argue, of things in this country. And, by the way, in what part of all America, which Captain Hall tells us he travelled from end to end, did he see anything so characteristic ‘of the blighting tempest of democracy,’ as this *custom* of Walthamstow?

At Troy, Captain Hall visited the school so liberally and wisely endowed by a liberal and distinguished citizen of that neighborhood.

‘We found a school, recently established by one of the wealthiest and most public-spirited men in the country, the principle of which differs from that of all others, with which I am acquainted. The object is to instruct young men as schoolmasters, or rather as teachers of different mechanical arts and sciences. The munificent patron of this institution, after having thus assisted the scholars, supplies them, when duly qualified, with money and with proper recommendations, and sends them over the country to get employment.’ Vol. i. p. 64.

But nothing is quite right with the Captain in America. It is not enough, that a gentleman in this country, properly characterized as among our wealthiest citizens, but yet whose entire fortune does not equal the Duke of Devonshire’s annual income, has founded and established, at his own expense, a school different in principle from any, with which Captain Hall is acquainted, in any country, ‘and of which the arrangements were admirable;’—the Captain regretted to learn, that this example had not been followed by any one else! We have been told the Chinese like everything in pairs; and when you present a mandarin with a gold watch, he asks you for *the other*. We really think one institution for public instruction, of a peculiar kind, which had not yet been devised by the liberality, public spirit, and munificence of all Europe, is quite as much as can be fairly asked of America.

The Captain complains, and with justice, of the annoyance to travellers on the Erie canal, occasioned by the multitude of bridges. This evil has been remedied on the Miami canal, in the state of Ohio,—a canal not opened when Captain Hall was at Cincinnati, but now penetrating the fertile interior of that state. The remedy consists in a most ingenious device of a top to the canal-boats, capable of being depressed and

elevated, by which the whole annoyance experienced on the New York canal is removed. This movable top is open on the sides, forming a canopy over half the boat ; and affording the passengers full enjoyment of the prospect of the neighbouring country, and free circulation of air. While passing under bridges, the top is depressed by a simple contrivance, and is immediately raised up, by weights passing through pulleys, attached to the stanchions which support the roof.

Captain Hall says a good deal about the names of the newly settled townships in New York, and other parts of America. Troy, Ithaca, Rome, Cicero, Homer, and Manlius seemed to him at first highly ridiculous. The Captain was afterwards reconciled to them, by fancying they might be the means of suggesting or keeping up some associations with classical antiquity. This, however, he found not to be the case, and was provoked at the discovery ; and still more by finding that,

‘ Whenever I meet with the name of a Roman city, or an author, or a general, instead of having my thoughts carried back as heretofore to the regions of antiquity, I am transported forthwith in imagination to the post-road, on my way to Lake Erie, and my joints and bones turn sore at the bare recollection of joltings and other nameless annoyances, by day and by night, which I much fear will outlive all the little classical knowledge of my juvenile days.’ Vol. i. pp. 73, 74.

The Captain makes too much of this both ways. There is, unquestionably, on first hearing, something ridiculous, in these singularly grouped names of antiquity. It will be recollected, however, that the hardest thing in the world,—the world’s master pronounced it impossible,—is to make a new word. In America, names were to be found for many thousands of states, counties, towns, villages, rivers, and lakes. Every principle of selection has been pursued, and each has its advantages and its defects. Our pilgrim fathers sometimes adopted Scripture names, and gave us *Salem* and *Rehoboth* ; or pious appellations, like *Providence*. They retained some of the Indian names, not always to the convenience of the poet. In the great majority of cases, they transplanted the names of their native places in England. There is some disadvantage in this, in the case of maritime towns ; and it is a resource pretty soon exhausted. Many places were named, from time to time, for the prominent statesmen of the period when they were settled, both in the colonial and metropolitan govern-

ments. Thus, we have *Chatham*, *Hillsborough*, *Wilkesbarre*, *Pownalborough*, *Belchertown*. Since the Revolution, the multiplication of places to be named, has gone on much more rapidly than ever before ; and invention has been proportionately tasked to find names. The Classical Dictionary has, in this emergency, been pretty freely resorted to ; with an immediate effect at first somewhat ridiculous, but which wholly wears off in a short time. The citizen of Utica thinks no more of Cato and ‘ his little senate,’ than the student of Oxford does of the passing droves of black cattle, which originally gave its name to Oxenford.

Captain Hall, in some part of his book, complains of the Americans, for not having sympathized and coöperated with England, in her struggles during the French revolution. The complaint is, upon the whole, unfounded, and argues a want of acquaintance with the history of our politics. Our political parties turned, for twenty years and more, on this very point ; and one of the two great political parties of the country did feel the sentiment, for the want of which Captain Hall censures us. In free countries, Captain Hall knows, that what one party likes the other dislikes. If one of our parties sympathized with England, in her struggle, it was as much as could be said of England herself, where one great party threw all its force against the government. But we have now alluded to this topic of complaint against America, to say, that it is the great fault of Captain Hall’s book, that he does not sympathize with the state of things in America. He sees nothing cheerful, nothing auspicious. Our system of equality is a blighting democracy, though he does not tell us what it has blighted. He is worried with little matters, and insensible to great blessings. He is shocked at the ‘ tall burnt stumps of trees standing amidst the growing corn ;’ but yet the forest must be cleared away ; and there is no agent but fire, which is cheap and expeditious enough. The stumps will all be gone in thirty years. Girdling the trees is a ‘ barbarous operation.’ The field filled with stumps looks ‘ desolate,’ ‘ deplorable.’ A foreigner looks with horror at ‘ these Banquos of the murdered forest.’ ‘ The wretched trunks of these girdled trees, in a year, present the most miserable objects of decrepitude that can be conceived. The purpose, however, of the farmer is gained, and that is all he can be expected to look to. His corn-crop is no longer overshadowed by the leaves of these

unhappy trees, which in process of time, are cut down and split into railings or sawed into billets of firewood, and their misery is at an end.' We do not recollect any of this sentiment, in reference to those parts of Upper Canada, where the same process is going on ; but in the United States nothing is promising. Captain Hall protests against what he calls the American sense of *improvement*, which he says imports 'an augmentation of houses and people, and above all, in the amount of the acres of cleared land ;' whereas 'in England it means making things better.' So it does in America ; and a tract of land is thought to be made better, by being reclaimed from an unproductive state, and made fit to produce food for man. We believe, also, it is strictly an English expression, to speak of a highly improved country ; meaning a well cultivated and thickly peopled one. The Captain, following up this criticism, adds, 'It is laid down by the Americans, as an admitted maxim, to doubt the solidity of which never enters any man's head for an instant, that a rapid increase of population is, to all intents and purposes, tantamount to an increase of national greatness and power, as well as an increase of individual happiness and prosperity.' No American that we ever heard of has maintained this principle ; and in order to controvert it, Captain Hall gives it a latitude, which in this country, no man thinks of giving it. We hold that for us,—for America, where land is abundant and labor scarce, an increase of population promotes national and individual prosperity. The Captain does not deny this. He admits 'we are not entirely wrong ;' 'increase of population may or may not prove a symptom of prosperity, according to circumstances.' But are not those circumstances, in which this increase is a public benefit, precisely such as exist in America ? Captain Hall will not deny it. 'It is interesting,' says he, 'to behold millions of human beings starting into life in the wilderness.' But his book shows none of this interest. We do not recollect a burst of feeling, at the astonishing spectacle. One or two establishments are decidedly commended ; a few more 'damned with faint praise' ; but the general system of things, which, in a space of time so very short, has brought so vast a region into the domain of civilization, is radically condemned by him. Instead of seeking features of resemblance between his own country and this healthful offspring, he hideously exaggerates the dissimilarity, to the length of declaring, that our language,

which we proudly boast of as the mother tongue of Chatham, is harder to be understood by an Englishman than that of Japan and Cochin China.

But we must pass from this topic, and hasten with our traveller into Canada ; and here we cannot but contrast the encouraging tone in which everything is spoken of, with the universal disparagement of the United States. There are some things, even in the way of omission, which we cannot account for. In describing the colonists established in Canada by the British government, at great expense, Captain Hall represents the experiment as having *proved eminently successful, in all its parts.* Captain Hall particularly found the emigrants to be exceedingly loyal and grateful to the government for its aid. Mr Southey, no prejudiced witness on this subject, and writing with the First Report on Emigration before him, says, ‘ So it is not strange, that an experiment, the plan whereof was so much better in its design than in its details, *should have failed as to its primary purpose.* A great many of the colonists forsook their allotments, and went to seek their fortune in the United States.’\* The same author presently adds, that the inducement whereby settlers were drawn into the United States, was ‘ the persuasion, that the means of subsistence are more surely and easily to be obtained there ; and this persuasion operates extensively. The casual emigrants, who find their way from these islands to Canada, are estimated at about ten thousand, and of these it has been said [First Report on Emigration, p. 48], that about four fifths pass into the American states.’ ‘ When assistance for removing to Canada has been afforded to poor families, either by their parishes or the state, a great many have availed themselves of it, only for the sake of a passage, at the public expense, to this promised land.’† So much for the entire success of the projects for colonizing Canada ; so much for the loyalty, gratitude, and prosperity of the emigrants. Captain Hall makes no allusion to this state of things, unless to observe, on finding on board the steam-boat on Lake Champlain, a party of Irish emigrants, flying from Canada to the United States, that they did it ‘ for reasons best known to themselves.’ We should think, that after

\* Southey’s Colloquies, Vol. II. p. 278. The evidence on this point, in the Report of the Emigration Committee, is contradictory, some witnesses affirming, and some denying the fact.

† The same volume, p. 279 and 281.

the matter had been for years before the British parliament, and been made the subject of so many elaborate reports, these reasons were pretty well known to others.

So resolute is Captain Hall to see everything in a favorable light in the British provinces, that he is there indifferent to the very things, to which in the United States he assigns a most sinister prominence. And what a singular reason does he give for this indifference! Canada, when Captain Hall visited it, was in a state of great discontent. The most violent proceedings took place in their legislature; proceedings strikingly like those, which took place in the United States before the Revolution. The governor and the majority of the council were excessively odious, and in a state of most violent resistance to the assembly and mass of the people. But Captain Hall's 'recent intercourse with Niagara [!] and the many wild and curious scenes in Upper Canada, together with his descent of the Rapids,' are assigned as the cause of 'the indifference, which he struggled in vain to throw off, as to the politics of Lower Canada, although the topic was then swallowing up every other consideration.' This effect of his intercourse with Niagara lasted just so long as he stayed in Canada, and no longer. As soon as he passes again into the United States, his active powers of observation revive. Considering the fact, which Captain Hall states, that the political contests of the day were the all-absorbing topics during his visit to Lower Canada, this indifference, in a professed traveller, is calculated to excite some surprise. But did it rest here, there would be nothing more to be said about it. Captain Hall, however, undertakes to answer for the loyalty of the Canadians. 'Every body was perfectly contented.' 'The colonists, in general, are not so much children, but true and loyal consorts of the country in whose sunshine they flourish.' Now, as Captain Hall had his imagination so much occupied and fascinated with the wild scenery of Upper Canada, that he could not and did not investigate the local politics of the provinces, we do not know how he can answer for them, that they are contented and loyal. These provinces were then, and are now, violently agitated by two parties, that of the government and that of the people. The latter party may be weak and contemptible (it certainly is not so in numbers), and not to be taken into the account, in stating the temper of the population. But Captain Hall could not know it to be so; for he tells us he could not and did

not inquire into the matter. And yet he assures us the Canadians are all loyal and all contented. There is indeed some misgiving, apparently, in his mind, that his readers will not be satisfied with this omission, particularly on the score of fairness to the United States, and he makes several apologies for it. The effect of the wild scenery of Upper Canada is one, which we have already cited. Another, which is glanced at by Captain Hall, gives us a glimpse at a state of things in Canada, which ought, we think, to have been candidly investigated by him.

' Nevertheless, even although I had access to the best informed company on both sides, and had the farther [?] advantage of forming an acquaintance with some of the most zealous of the opposition party, I could never bring myself to take any very sincere interest in these local questions. Every body, indeed, seemed so perfectly contented, and all that I could see, hear, or read about the province, showed the inhabitants to be in the enjoyment, practically speaking, of such numerous and substantial blessings, political and domestic, that I found it impossible to sympathize deeply in their speculative misery, when, in point of fact, they possessed, as it appeared to me, everything that rational men could desire, and more, perhaps, than any other country in the world.

' Possibly, had I studied the subject more attentively, I might have found my ideas changed [but how so, being formed 'from all he could see, hear, or read' ?]; and, although I am half ashamed of not having done so, I regret it the less, from observing that the subject has lately been taken up by the House of Commons, and has been investigated with a minuteness which it was utterly impossible I could have found time for, and under circumstances much more advantageous than any within my reach, even when on the spot. [It is to us inconceivable, that a committee of the House of Commons in London, should be under more favorable circumstances, to inquire into the state of politics in Upper and Lower Canada, than an intelligent traveller on the spot, 'having access to the best informed company on both sides.' Captain Hall repels more than once, and with no little tartness, the suggestion; that his flying visit through the United States, on which he moved at the rate of twenty-one miles a day, for every day he was in the country, did not enable him to pronounce on every question touching every part of the country.] So that a reference to the Parliamentary Report, and to the Evidence before the committee of the House of Commons, ordered to be printed on the twenty-second of July, 1828, will afford, as far as I am able to judge, much fuller information than I could have brought away,

had I been ever so industrious.' [But Captain Hall might have given us, in a couple of pages, the general bearings of the controversy, and the state of parties ; and he evidently, at one time, thought he ought to do it, for he adds] 'It was my intention, however, notwithstanding this Report and Evidence, to have inserted at this place a sketch of the discussions alluded to ; but I have thought it right to suppress it, in consequence of the recent changes in that quarter, and the disposition which really appears to exist, on both sides, to start afresh, to turn over a new leaf, and to join cordially in advancing the prosperity of a country so highly gifted by nature and by fortune.' Vol. i. pp. 201, 202.

In Captain Hall's resolute purpose to see everything in a favorable light in the Canadas, he has, in the close of the few paragraphs we have cited, seemingly forgotten the point at which he started. He could not, at the beginning of his remarks, take an interest in these local matters ; the struggle which he witnessed in Montreal was an affair of the boys and mob, 'in the most approved style of party manners.' Every body appeared perfectly contented, and the whole province enjoying more substantial blessings, political and domestic, than any other country in the world. A few sentences on, we find, however, rather strangely, that the condition of this happy, contented people, has required the interposition of parliament ; that changes have become necessary, and have been made ; and that *now* (1829) the inhabitants are going to turn over a new leaf, and unite cordially with each other in promoting the public prosperity !

But though Captain Hall refers to the discussion in the House of Commons in 1828, *it is impossible* he could have read it. That indifference, which benumbed his faculties in Montreal, must still have weighed upon them in London. We give our reasons for this peremptory assertion. In that debate Mr Huskisson, *then the minister*, began by saying,

'The question which I wish, at this time, to induce the House to investigate is, whether those extensive, valuable, and fertile possessions of the crown, the Canadas, are, or are not, administered, under a system of civil government, adapted to the wants, the well-being, and the happiness of nearly a million of British subjects, and well calculated to maintain the allegiance of our settlements, and preserve unbroken the affection and good understanding, which should always subsist between colonies and the mother country. If, upon inquiry, it shall appear that the present system is not calculated to answer this purpose, and that the remedy

for the evil cannot be applied without the authority of parliament, it will be for parliament to deal with the question, with a view to the introduction of such modifications, improvements, and alterations in the existing system, as may appear necessary.'

It is the drift of Mr Huskisson's speech to prove the negative of the questions announced; to prove that this people, whom Captain Hall found, in 1827, to be in the enjoyment of everything which rational men could desire, and more perhaps than any other country in the world, were, in 1828, 'under a system of civil government, *not* adapted to their wants, well-being, nor happiness, nor to maintain their allegiance, nor preserve their affection and good understanding with the mother country.'

Mr Huskisson proceeds to state, that the system of government existing in the Canadas, though the work of great statesmen, was produced at a time when little was known of the country, when its resources and interests were little understood, and is consequently '*extremely defective*.' In its details, there are many difficulties to be removed, many imperfections which require a remedy, many omissions which require to be supplied. Owing to the nature of the tenure, by which lands are held, Mr Huskisson says, 'there are fines,—annual duties on all alienations of property,—and various rights and duties of a most vexatious and harassing nature.' Captain Hall, in magnifying the felicity of the Canadians, says, 'When the British provinces are compared with the United States, it is by no means too much to say, that the laws, which, *in fact*, *are those of England*, are out of all sight [?] more steady; and, from that circumstance, besides many others, better *administered*.' Did Captain Hall know this? Did he inquire, and was this the result of his inquiry? Mr Huskisson came to a different conclusion. *He* says, 'With respect to civil rights, as I have already said, the French *law* and *administration* were established; but the English system of jurisprudence prevailed in criminal matters.' Nor is this all, and we do entertain a little hope of satisfying Captain Hall himself, that he has gone beyond the mark of loyalty in this matter; he has distanced the minister.

'In fact the inconvenience of the existing condition of Canada, cannot be well understood in this country. In this colony [Lower Canada] the law of mortgage is in its worst state. The registration of deeds is another point deserving of attention; and the

laws and usages relating to the formation of roads are those of the old French feudal system.\* The consequence has been that, in the last fifteen years, not one single road-bill has been passed by the legislative assembly of that province. Thus there is no opportunity afforded the English townships of communicating with the river St Lawrence, except by some of its tributary streams, on account of the interposition of the seignories between them and that river. In the same manner, [and to this passage we ask the special attention of our readers, who wish to see the length of delusion, to which a man so sensible as Captain Hall can be carried] another part of what I consider an important public duty in a legislative assembly was overlooked. *I mean the education of the children of the settlers.* This is a subject never thought of. In point of fact, the state of things is such, that *the settlers* feel *more disposed* to connect themselves with those districts, which border on the United States [meaning territories of the United States], where they can better have their wants of this description supplied, and *receive the benefits of the administration of justice, than to remain in the country to which they owe allegiance!*

So much for the blessings of English laws and their administration. Captain Hall congratulates the provinces on their happy form of government, uniting an executive dependent on the crown, with the elective franchise very generally enjoyed by the bulk of the people. Of the first he speaks in the following smooth terms;

'The foundations of those powers, which preserve social order, are certainly more stable and better organized, than in the United States. Their rulers do not derive their authority from those, over whom their power is to be exercised; they look up and not down for approbation; and can therefore use that authority with more genuine independence. This doctrine, of course, is scouted in the

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\* In another part of this speech, Mr Huskisson says of these colonies, which Captain Hall pronounces to be under the English laws, and English administration of them, 'There is no possibility of suing or being sued, except in the French courts and according to the French form and practice; no mode of transacting commercial business, except under French customs now obsolete in France. In Lower Canada they go upon the law and system of feudal tenure, and the law is more incapable of ever being improved or modified, by the progress of information or knowledge, than if it still remained the system of France and the model of her dependencies. Here, in the midst of a wilderness, flourishes the French feudal system and the "custom of Paris" three centuries ago.' And yet Captain Hall says, 'the laws, which in fact are those of England, are out of all sight more steady, and from that circumstance, besides many others, better administered,' than in the United States !

United States, as altogether heterodox;\* but the colonies, when prompted to compare their condition with that of their neighbors, I am quite certain, will never find cause to regret the distinctions which arise from this source; *and that they feel this as they ought to do, I know by ample experience.*'

We are rather puzzled to reconcile this 'ample experience' of the Captain, with the indifference to the subject and his ignorance of it, which he makes known to us, as well as with Mr Huskisson's direct assertion of the contrary fact. But we pass this, to show what these rulers 'not deriving their authority from those they rule over' are, and the great cause the Canadians have to like them.

'This, sir,' says Mr Huskisson, 'is the state of the controversy between the executive and legislative body in Canada. The consequences of the agitation of such a controversy as this, *in which both parties have stood upon their extreme rights*, have been *most unfortunate!* One of the consequences has been the necessity, under which the representative of the king has found himself, of appropriating money for the necessary services of the colony, without the sanction of the colonial legislature. Such a thing as this, in a country with a legislative assembly, can only be justified by the absolute necessity of preventing general confusion and the subversion of the government. I do not stand here—(living as I do in a country, where the rights of the popular branch of the legislature, to control the expenditure of the money it raises, are so well known and universally acknowledged)—to defend the abstract propriety of a governor of a colony, appropriating the revenue, without the sanction of an act of the legislature, as required by law; but pressed by necessity, it ought not perhaps to be wondered at, however we may regret the necessity, that a governor should take all the means in his power, to maintain the tranquillity of the place committed to his charge.'

Thus we see the governor, contrary to law, thrusting his hand into the public treasury, and expending the contents without appropriation, and his conduct not justified by the minister, but palliated, on the ground that it was absolutely necessary to prevent a subversion of the government. But Captain Hall had 'ample experience,' that the colonies 'feel right' on the subject of their executive.

\* We supposed that the doctrine, that 'rulers do not derive their authority from those over whom their power is to be exercised,' had been scouted in England ever since 1688. From whom does the present ruling house in England derive its authority?

That executive consists of a governor and council. We have seen how happily the office and powers of the governor are constituted ; now let us look to the council. And here we shall use the words of Sir James Mackintosh, in the same debate, not a ministerial member, we are aware, but one whose statement of a fact Captain Hall will cheerfully admit. We may premise, that Sir James commenced his speech by saying, that he had ‘ presented a petition signed by eighty-seven thousand of the inhabitants of Canada, comprehending among its numbers nine-tenths of the heads of families in the province, and more than two-thirds of its landed proprietors,’ and had shown that ‘ the petitioners had the gravest causes of complaint against the administration of the government of the colony.’ A pretty curious petition this, to come from a people universally contented and loyal, and happy in the enjoyment of greater blessings, than any other people in the world ! Now what says Sir James of the executive council, the other portion of the rulers, who, to the great advantage of the Canadians, do *not* ‘ derive their authority from those, over whom their power is to be exercised.’ We beg all those, who may have been disposed to pin their judgment on Captain Hall’s sleeve, as an impartial and accurate observer, to mark what follows ;

‘ It is a fatal error in the rulers of a country to despise the people ; its safety, honor, and strength are best preserved by consulting their wishes and feelings. The government of Quebec, despising these considerations, has been long engaged in a scuffle with the people, and has thought hard words and hard blows not inconsistent with its dignity. I observe, that twenty-one bills were passed by the lower house of assembly 1827—*most of them reformatory*. *Of those twenty-one bills, not one was approved of by the upper house*. Is the governor responsible for this ? I answer, He is. The council is nothing better than the tool of the government. It is not a fair and constitutional check between the popular assembly and the governor ; but it is the governor’s council. The counsellors are all creatures of the governor ; and they sit in council, not to examine the bills sent to them, but to concur in the acts of the governor. Of these counsellors, consisting of twenty-seven gentlemen, seventeen hold places under the government at pleasure. These seventeen divide amongst them fifteen thousand pounds of the public money, which is not a small sum in a country where one thousand pounds a year is a large income for a country gentleman. I omit the bishop, who is perhaps rather inclined to authority—but of a pacific character. The nine remaining counsellors were worn out by opposing the seventeen,

and at present have withdrawn from attending its deliberations ; and two of them, being the most respectable land-owners of the province, were among the subscribers to the petition. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the house if the Canadians are not justified in considering the very existence of this council, as a constitutional grievance ?'

And it is this execrable executive government, held up, without a champion or an apologist, to the scorn of the British parliament, that Captain Hall not only pronounces to be excellent in itself ; but to be so deemed, to his own knowledge, derived from ample experience, by the Canadians ; and that at a moment, when nine-tenths of the heads of the families, and two-thirds of the land proprietors, were petitioning against the very existence of it, as a constitutional grievance !

We are nearly weary of this analysis ; but we will glance at the popular branch of the Canadian government. In reference to that branch Captain Hall says ;

' By means of the elective franchise, *which is very generally enjoyed*, the great bulk of the people retain in their own hands sufficient political influence, to make them feel quite free and truly independent, in the situation where nature has placed them. Happily, also, the exercise of their political rights does not interfere to any hurtful degree with their social duties, nor carry them at all out of their proper sphere of life.' Vol. i. p. 217.

Now were the exercise of the elective franchise ever so happily arranged, or ever so widely diffused, what would it avail, with a council composed of placemen and capable of negativing every bill passed by the representatives, and with a governor capable of expending the whole revenue of the state, one hundred and forty thousand pounds, without appropriation, and contrary to law ? Can the right of voting in the election of such a body make a people, in Captain Hall's judgment, feel ' quite free and truly independent ' ? But what is the fact ? The province of Lower Canada in 1792 was laid off into eighteen counties sending each two members, three counties sending one, two cities sending each four, one town sending two, and one sending one, making a total of fifty.

' What I complain of is,' says Mr Huskisson, ' that the representation is not equally distributed. It is a great error, to take the density of the population many years ago, and apply it as a permanent standard to the number of representatives, to be chosen for particular places and departments. The effect of this erroneous principle has necessarily been to throw the chief power of

representation into the hands of the seignories. The same defect exists in Upper as in Lower Canada. The English settlers are excluded from a fair participation in what ought to be a popular representation, and the power of election is thrown into the hands of the descendants of the French. I state these complaints with more confidence, because, *in all parts of Canada*, it is agreed, *that the present system works so ill, as to stand in need of alteration.*' Vol. i. p. 217.

We will now give Captain Hall's summary, and then Mr Huskisson's.

'Thus the community at large,' says Captain Hall, 'possess fully as much if not more freedom, than their neighbors, while the best informed and ablest members of it have better and incomparably more permanent and definite stimulants to honest ambition, than the same class of men in the United States. *Neither is the peace of society disturbed by incessant contentions for temporary power*, and the inhabitants of the colonies are enabled to manage their internal affairs, upon more uniform principles, because they are confined to the hands of experienced and able men. All this is arranged in direct defiance and ridicule, I admit, of the doctrine of universal equality; but nevertheless in a manner strictly conformable to the decrees of Providence, as far as they are made known to us by the lights of experience and plain common sense.' Vol. i. p. 217.

It appears to us rash in Captain Hall, to assert that a state of facts, purely hypothetical, concerning which he admits he felt indifferent on the spot, and has not since inquired, is in conformity with the decrees of Providence. If Mr Huskisson speaks truth, and was well informed, Providence has had nothing to do with the government of Canada, but to make it a monument of long-suffering and forbearance.

'When principles,' says Mr Huskisson, 'are pressed to the extreme, a legislature may no doubt distress the executive government of a country, and so wear it out by continual opposition, as to have the point in dispute conceded. But what, in the mean time, are the unfortunate results to the people? What, in the midst of these conflicts, has been the result to the province of Canada? Nothing was expended of the money raised in this irregular manner, but what was absolutely necessary to carry on the government of the province. All improvement was at a stand; the roads were neglected; education was overlooked; the public buildings were suffered to fall to decay; and the country generally brought to such a state, *that there was not a Canadian whose interests did not suffer.*'

These are not the representations of an American traveller ; not the sinister statements of a member of the opposition in the House of Commons ; but they are the arguments, by which the British minister calls on parliament to reform the constitution of the Canadas. All these evils were at their crisis when Captain Hall was in the country. He saw nothing, heard nothing, read nothing of it all !

Of the description which he gives of the country, so opposite to its real state, and of the contrast he advertises to the disadvantage of the United States, in points, where, as we have shown, the Canadas are, by all admission, deplorably deficient, we know not that any other account can be given, than that the Captain was led, by his resolute loyalty, to find everything as it ought to be in Canada, and as it ought not to be in the United States.

Thus, that some of the United States have revised their constitutions, in the course of forty or fifty years, and that an amendment has been made in the constitution of the United States, in the article relative to the election of the President, are matters, which give Captain Hall occasion to reflect on the uncertainty of the duration of our government. The fact, that the constitution was adopted in 1789, leads him to reduce the period, for which our institutions (many of which are co-eval with the settlement of the country) have lasted, to forty years. The circumstance, that in 1804 it was provided that the President and Vice-President should be voted for in distinct ballots, and that in case no choice be made by the people, the House of Representatives should choose one of the three highest candidates, instead of the former mode of a ballot for two individuals, and an eventual choice by the House from the five highest, leads the Captain to reduce this period to twenty-four years. While in Canada, on the other hand, he cannot sufficiently admire the steadiness, permanence, and solidity of the constitution, its freedom from fluctuation, its security against violent change. How is the fact ? Several of the United States are governed by constitutions, essentially the same as they were before the Revolution. *mutatis mutandis*, adopting only a substitute for the power of the crown. This is the case with Massachusetts. One state has no other constitution, than that of its ancient royal charter. Many of the states have revised their constitutions, since the first formation of them during the Revolution, but no principle affecting essentials has

been, within our knowledge and recollection, changed in any of them. The first attempt at a federal government proved ‘abortive,’ if Captain Hall pleases ; but in no other sense, than that, having been found inadequate, it was peaceably and without convulsion moulded into the present form, in which one modification, not insignificant certainly—but going to remedy an evil not likely to recur in centuries,—has been made ; and this Captain Hall tells us is fluctuation. What then is the state of Canada ? In 1763, the British found there the French law, and no constitution of civil government, other than the will of the crown. The king issued his proclamation, and invited his subjects to go and settle there, promising them the benefit and protection of British laws and courts of justice, and declaring the royal intention to establish a deliberative assembly. Thus, at one blow, the constitution, under which this colony had been settled, was changed. The promise of a legislative assembly, however, lay for thirty years a dead letter. In 1774, it appeared that the Canadians were greatly attached to their hereditary system of legislation, and afflicted with the blessing of British laws ; and parliament revoked all the pledges of the proclamation of 1763, and re-established the French jurisprudence and administration in civil matters, retaining only the English criminal law. Thus was another constitution given to the Canadas, by the very permanent and steady councils of the mother country, within nine years. But as variety is pleasing, all lands granted between 1763 and 1774 were to be held in free and common socage, while to all estates granted before 1763 the custom of Paris applied ; so that the greatest confusion arose. In 1778, the steady councils of the mother country and the permanent institutions of Canada underwent another change, by the declaratory act, which renounced, on the part of the mother country, the right of taxing the colonies. We believe it is the interpretation which the Assembly puts on this act, which lies at the root of many of the present discontents. Shocking as it must be to Captain Hall, who has much to say of the contested interpretations of parts of our constitution, it is not certain whether the Canadas were meant to be included in this act. Under this constitution, Canada continued thirteen long years, till in 1791, Mr Pitt pulled all up, and laid all down anew, and divided the provinces into two governments, each with a separate legislature,—organized, says Mr Huskisson, on an unequal and defective plan. We believe this con-

stitution continued till the last year, with the exception that the governor, whenever it was necessary (he being judge), took the powers of the legislature into his own hand. An abortive attempt was made to change it in 1822. In that year, Mr Wilmot Horton, a great favorite with Captain Hall, brought into parliament, in the month of June, when sixty members only were in attendance,

'A bill calculated to do no less [we use the words of Mr Labouchere, an intelligent young member of parliament advantageously known to many of our readers, who *was not* indifferent to the local politics of that country, while travelling in it,] than to destroy the constitution, which Mr Pitt and the parliament had solemnly bestowed on the colonies. Some time after this had happened, it had been his [Mr Labouchere's] fortune to visit Canada, and he could aver that the feeling of indignation and suspicion, produced towards this government, by the bill of 1822, was greater than those could well imagine, who had not been witnesses to it.'

So monstrous, however, had the evils become, under which this contented, loyal, prosperous people live, that in 1828 nine tenths of them assail parliament for a new constitution ; and Captain Hall tells us they have got it, and are delighted with it. It may be so, but the Canadian press holds a different language. The Quebec papers say, Upper Canada is in a state of revolution ; and the Upper Canada papers speak for themselves as follows ;

*From the York U. C. Freeman.*

'We say without appeal, because we view an appeal to Sir John Colborne, at present, against any of the *reigning faction*, or even to the home government, as no appeal at all. Judge Willis appealed against their injustice—what did he meet ? Expense, degradation, and disappointment. We appealed to Sir John Colborne, against their cruelty and oppression—what did we get ? An evasive and tantalizing refusal. The Grand Inquest of Upper Canada appealed to him on our behalf—what did they meet ? Open insult. The editor of the Observer is going to appeal against their foul conspiracy to crush him, and what will he meet ? Disappointment. Another man in this town is about to appeal against two magistrates, who denied him his lawful wages, to oblige a brother *justice*,—what will he gain by this ? Nothing at all. It is all in vain to think of appealing to Sir John,—the faction have got the whole administration of justice in their hands,—the fountains of justice have long been corrupt, and his excellency can do nothing with them ;—nothing but a general purification will do,

and that is what Sir John Colborne has not the slightest idea of attempting,—he would shudder at the thought. When Sir John, through fear of the faction, insulted the representatives of the people, and refused, by a merciful exercise of the royal prerogative, on the first appeal after his arrival here, to *conciliate the people*,—and that too in a case of trifling misdemeanor, with a precedent before his eyes by the preceding governor, it is really astonishing that any man would be so silly as to expect that he will relieve the province *from the grasp of its oppressors*. No, the press will be persecuted,—the country will be oppressed; injustice, corruption, and misrule will wax strong and increase,—the Governor will quietly enjoy his salary, and the faction will ride triumphantly in their impious career, until the people and their representatives take a bold and manly stand for their rights, and overthrow them.'

Such is Captain Hall's *beau idéal* of permanent government. But why do we allow ourselves to be put off with a comparison with Canada? The United States, for the first time in the world, have introduced something like a permanent principle into constitutional governments. Commencing with the immortal ordinance of 1787, the fundamental constitution of the Northwestern States (whose happy author still lives), this country first set the example of constitutional provisions of civil government, engrafted, in the form of compact, upon the very soil itself, as the previous condition of settlement, and unchangeable by any process recognised by the constitution.\* Following after a short interval of time, the constitution of the United States was adopted, embracing an appointed mode of making changes in its provisions, to be made, however, by a process so complicated, that it can scarce ever take effect, and with reservations of certain principles utterly unchangeable. And does Captain Hall talk of the fickleness of our institutions, and their proneness to change, and the recency of their date? What is there in the English constitution, worth having, older than 1688? What is there, that cannot, any day, be changed in the ordinary process of legislation? A modification of the mode of choosing the President gives Captain Hall ground for bringing down the date of our constitution to 1804. That change is absolutely nothing, compared with the change made this very year, in the British constitution, by admitting Catholic peers to the House of Lords, and making

\* This topic was admirably illustrated by Mr Webster, in his speech at the inauguration of Judge Story.

Catholics eligible to the House of Commons.\* Nay, the disfranchisement of Grampound, Shoreham, Cricklade, Aylesbury, and East Retford, cuts deeper a thousand times into the British constitution, than the adoption of every amendment ever proposed would do, in the case of ours. For the principle of the British constitution is that of prescription and long use. Grampound and East Retford were disfranchised for bribery ; but if abuse is to countervail prescription, what is to become of all the rotten boroughs, the close boroughs, and the great unrepresented mass of the population ? Prescriptive usage cannot save them, because it is an enormous abuse of that prescription, that the *site* of a borough should continue to send two members, after every dwelling-house has for ages vanished, and the once populous city has become a wheat-field. This abuse is as great as bribery,

\* In calling the admission of Catholics into parliament a great change in the British constitution, we are sustained by the authority of Mr Peel, who, in the debate on the Catholic claims, in May, 1828, used this language ; ‘ He considered it an important question, in point of policy (dismissing the questions of justice and good faith), as it affected the general constitution of the country, and with reference to its bearing on the prosperity of the empire. With respect to the first, he must say, that the removal of all civil disabilities, and the laying down of this principle, that there should be no distinction in respect to religious opinions, and no barrier between a professor of the Roman Catholic faith, and that of the Protestant established church, was a material change in the constitution of the country. There were limitations, it was true, in this as in every other proposition, as to the degree of change. If the constitution was considered to be the king, lords, and commons, it would be *subverting that constitution* to admit Roman Catholics to the privileges they sought ; it would be an important change in the state of the constitution as established at the *Revolution!* ’ In less than one year, this *subversion* of the British constitution (itself dating, according to Mr Peel, from the *Revolution!* ) took place ; and, what is more, was carried through the forms of legislation in the House of Commons, by Mr Peel himself,—a pleasing illustration of the justice of Captain Hall’s eulogium of the comparative steadiness of the British councils. The following are Mr Southey’s words, alluded to in the text, ‘ More direct injury has been done to the House of Commons. When Mr Pitt removed from thence so many of the great landholders into the House of Lords, their place in the Commons was to be supplied, at best, with men who had less of that influence which properly belongs to property, in a commonwealth constituted like ours ; and room was made for men of a lower class and of a dangerous description, who, before the structure of parliament was thus—almost it may be said—revolutionized, would never, in the march of ambition, have approached its doors.’ *Colloquies*, Vol. ii. p. 231.

though of a different nature. We say then, that the commencement, which has been made, of disfranchising close boroughs for bribery, is a radical change of the British constitution. The suppression of the Irish parliament and the union were very serious changes in the British constitution. The free publication of the debates, instead of the paltry artifice by which the law, making it a breach of privilege, was evaded, was a very important change in the British constitution. Mr Southey says, the creation of numerous peers has effected a *revolution* in parliament. The act of settlement was a very delicate change in the British constitution ; and in 1688 it underwent modifications, vastly greater than the American constitutions ever experienced. Instead of taunting us with the tendency to change, it is a political phenomenon most rare and curious, that twenty-four states and a population of twelve millions can be so conveniently served, in all the great objects of government, by a constitution made for thirteen states and four millions of inhabitants. Instead of reproaching us with greater proneness to change, the discriminating observer will admit, that there is not an equal period of English history, in which greater changes have not been made in very essential articles of their system, than in the same period in ours.

From Canada, Captain Hall passes into New York. Delighted with a governor, robbing the public chest (and pleading an otherwise unavoidable subversion of the government as an excuse), and with a council, composed of the ‘governor’s creatures,’ negativing every bill from the other house, Captain Hall is of course disgusted with the legislature of New York, as composed of men, ‘who had come to the legislature straight from the plough, from behind the counter, from chopping down trees, or from the bar,’ wholly unacquainted with public business or the duty of the legislator. But we dislike this eternal drawing of inferences, instead of citing facts. We wish Captain Hall would point out the great practical evils perpetrated by this legislature, or that he would name a deliberative body in the world, that can show more work, better done, than may be shown by this very legislature of New York. Look at the institutions of that state ; her various endowed charities ; her penitentiaries, which our traveller describes with great, but not exaggerated praise ; the rapid colonization of her own wide domain, with a population greater than that which parliament, at a profuse expense of public money, has been able to rear up

in all the British North American dominions ; her munificent endowment of her colleges ; her princely school-fund ; her more than imperial works of internal communication. These are the doings of Captain Hall's wood-choppers and plough-joggers, but not all of them. A thousand works of legislative wisdom, liberality, and enterprise, have flowed from the same source. The great developement of steam-navigation, the new foundation of modern civilization,—that too is among the achievements of the legislature of New York, as far as legislative action could apply to such a matter. Unsuccessful in England and unsuccessful in France, our immortal Fulton brought over his precious conception, and placed it under the protection of the legislature of his adopted state. We have no particular reason to eulogize the legislature of New York. The evils incident to popular government, as to all human things, have been, at times, as apparent in that body, as the enemies of such a government could wish. But if there be a government, popular or arbitrary, which, in nearly the same space of time, and with the same command of means, has done more for the advancement of civilization, the arts, and the public welfare and prosperity, we have yet to learn in what part of the world it is to be found.

And here our limits constrain us to hasten towards a close, treating Captain Hall's book much as he does the United States, despatching the latter half of it very summarily. Our notes made on the perusal of his volumes would enable us to continue our remarks through every chapter, but we forbear. We have no wish to swell the table of Captain Hall's *errata*, nor to cavil at constantly recurring minor inaccuracies. If we have succeeded in our attempt, we have shown that Captain Hall was under the influence of a feeling (we believe it is the 'loyalty' he speaks of) which utterly incapacitated him from seeing the country as it is. How exceedingly limited a knowledge he could carry away from a region which he had traversed, and in which he spent days and weeks, we have shown in the case of Canada, which he passionately commends in the very matters which parliament was reforming as intolerable. The case is just the converse in the United States. With a few insulated exceptions, nothing is well ; the whole system and spirit are bad. Captain Hall seems to have had a misgiving, that the extent and accuracy of his observation would be questioned ; and is constantly trying to be beforehand with his answer, by

insinuating the unreasonableness of the Americans in exacting unqualified praise.

To show the strange inaccuracy of Captain Hall's observation, as well as his passion for generalizing from single facts, often ill understood, we will refer to his notes on the cattle-show at Brighton. It seems the Captain kept count of all the women whom he met that day, and there were but nine ; and on going to a place where he heard a fiddle, he found four men dancing a reel ! From this extensive induction, the Captain infers 'a most unwonted separation of the sexes' ; and on demanding an explanation of it, he got 'little else than ridicule for his pains.' For want of an explanation from others, however, he prepares a theory of his own, which is, 'that the women do not enjoy that station in society, which has been allotted to them elsewhere ; and consequently much of that important and habitual influence, which, from the peculiarity of their nature, they alone can exercise over society in more fortunately arranged communities, seems to be lost.'

Now we grant the Captain, that there is an important influence exercised by women, in what he calls more fortunately arranged communities, which is nearly, we hope wholly, unknown in this country. It was very obviously exercised in England, under Charles the Second ; in France, under Louis the Fourteenth ; and not unknown in Athens, in the age of Pericles and Aspasia. The only kind of female influence, which is not exercised in America as much as in Europe, is that kind to which we now allude, and which, though it does not imply want of virtue in each single case, belongs to a state of society, where delinquencies in that respect are common. All that influence, which can be exercised by virtuous and well-educated mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters, is nowhere so much exercised as in this country. The facts on which Captain Hall founds his theory are as ill understood and defective, as his theory itself is false. Nothing more characterizes this country, than the zeal of all classes of the female sex in attending public places. Captain Hall must have been strangely inattentive, not to have seen them composing a full moiety of the throng, at all our religious, patriotic, and literary festivals ; at all public shows, military reviews, and races ; in our deliberative bodies and courts of justice, when the least prospect of an interesting discussion exists. He tells us indeed, that he did see 'a considerable number at the oration in Stockbridge, but they were carefully placed on one side of

the church, and during the whole day there was no more intercourse between them and the men, than if they had belonged to different races.' But the fact is (as Captain Hall would have found out, if, in spite of the ridicule be encountered, he had manfully sifted this matter to the bottom), the ladies are placed together, on these occasions, and to the exclusion of the men, in order to accommodate more of them. 'At this cattle-show at Brighton, however, the exclusion was still more complete, for not even one female entered the church, though an agricultural discourse was there delivered, which the most delicate-minded person on earth might have listened to with pleasure and advantage.' We wonder, in fact, that coming so near the solution of his mighty difficulty, the Captain did not hit upon it. The truth is, that the annual discourse at the cattle-show in Brighton used to be honored with a very full attendance of ladies; till one season, and perhaps the very one preceding Captain Hall's unlucky visit, the consideration of the speaker happened to turn on points of rural economy, exceedingly important in themselves, and apt to the occasion, but not usually dwelt upon in this country, probably not in England, before audiences composed of both sexes. Since that period, the company at the cattle-show has been confined almost exclusively to men. This is the plain matter of fact, out of which our traveller has spun such an ominous web of consequences.

We will not enter farther into this exposition, except to show still more compendiously, though not less conclusively, by a single statement of Captain Hall's, and to the satisfaction of every man who understands either our system or our history, that the Captain has no clear idea of either;

'It appears that Washington's successor, Mr John Adams, found it necessary to yield, on various occasions, some little points, as he thought them,—but which, in fact, were the feather end of the wedge, that was eventually to move the whole edifice, when driven home by the resistless momentum of the sovereign people. Mr Jefferson succeeded, and as he was himself devoted to the cause of democracy, it made great strides under the hearty encouragement of his eight years' administration. *The law of primogeniture was abolished*, and various other acts passed, all tending the same way.'! Vol. II. pp. 61, 62.

The severity, with which Captain Hall treats the democratical tendency of our institutions, is curiously contrasted with the strictures he passes on our national festivals. He ascribes it

to a wish to keep up a hostile feeling toward England, that we celebrate the anniversaries of the great events of the revolutionary war, which England, he says, (in pursuance of her policy of forget and forgive) has long since ceased to remember. Now, individually, we hope the Americans are as little prone to bear ill will toward former national enemies, as their English brethren. Personally, Captain Hall assures us, he had nothing to complain of ;—and an accomplished English gentleman, who visited us a few years ago, (Mr Stanley) found reasons for declaring, in the House of Commons, in the debate we have so often alluded to, that,

‘ When they looked to the United States, they must see that after all the quarrels they had had with that power,—after a bloody revolutionary war founded on principle, and therefore the more bitter in its character, which was justice on one side and oppression on the other, all unfriendly feelings had disappeared ; and when they found, as he knew well by personal experience, that in America, so thoroughly convinced were the people of the benefits of a liberal policy, and so strong were the ties of a common origin, that an English gentleman travelling in that great republic, is sure to meet with the most hospitable reception. That great country was proud to acknowledge its relationship to England, and to recognise the love and attachment it yet felt to the mother country, and would feel for ages.’

This is the language not merely of the gentleman, but of the statesman. Mr Stanley saw and heard as much of our patriotic festivals, as Captain Hall did. He was here in 1825, when the expiration of a half century seemed to freshen up the ardent glow of the old revolutionary feeling. He did not quarrel with us for commemorating the great deeds and great men of that day. He knew it was not merely in human nature ; but that to forbear it would be not only base and recreant, but inconsistent with the very feelings, on which the best part of the hereditary system of Europe has been founded. Of this system we have borrowed the patriotic, the public, the disinterested portion. The great men of the age of our settlement, colonization, and revolution are the ancestry of the country. For an Englishman to reproach us, that we commemorate their exploits, would be to tempt the walls of Blenheim to fall and crush him as he passed. On what earthly basis, but the principle of these celebrations, is to be founded that native attachment to the soil, as the home of great men, who have gone before us, and the theatre of their excellent deeds, which Captain Hall and men of his way of thinking consider the sole test of high national character,

and the supposed want of which they object to us, as a great defect? \*

We are aware, that we have passed over a great many things in Captain Hall's book, deserving of comment; but we have already exceeded our limits. We repeat, we have been actuated by no ill will toward the traveller; but we appeal to the impartial reader, that we have shown him to be in possession of prejudices, under which he could not, and to have committed errors which prove that he did not, see the country as it is. His work will do considerable mischief, not in America, but in England. It will furnish food to the appetite for detraction, which reigns there toward this country. It will put a word in the mouths of those, who vilify because they hate, and hate because they fear us. Captain Hall is too brave for fear, and too generous for hate; but he has undesignedly played into the hands of those who are neither. This matter deserves his consideration; and as he will probably revise his work for the correction of its numerous faults in a literary point of view, the consequence of the haste in which it was written, we must recommend to him, in the calmness of after-thought, to review his whole system of thought and feeling toward this country.

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\* We have just seen a work, published in all the splendor and beauty of the British press, commemorating the battle of Agincourt. Forget and forgive!

NOTE.—In the review of Irving's 'Life of Columbus,' contained in our number for last January, there is an insinuation that the eminent novelist, Charles Brockden Brown, towards the close of his life, became addicted to irregular and intemperate habits. We have since been convinced, that this was a mistake. A gentleman, who knew him well, writes to us as follows. 'Mr Brown was a man of very abstemious habits, and pure, amiable, and exemplary in his life and deportment. Indeed, I do not know a more faultless being. The gentleness and benevolence of his nature procured him many friends, and those, who knew him best, loved him most.' We are happy, not only to retract our error, but to have this opportunity of stating from high authority, such decided testimony in favor of the private virtues of a man, whose genius was an honor to his country, and whose works will ever hold a high rank in its literature.